(c) if so, who is accountable for damages in these incidents and whether it has been compensated; and

(d) the steps taken to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) All such incidents are investigated through a Court of Inquiry and appropriate action regarding accountability, compensation and steps to check recurrence of the incidents taken accordingly.

DRDO not focussed on achieving self-reliance in military hardware

2961. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) has not adequately focussed on to achieve self-reliance in military hardware;

(b) if so, whether DRDO's venturing into making juices, mosquito repellents and titanium dental implants has been necessitated for utilizing full installed capacity or setting up of unimaginative priorities; and

(c) whether DRDO is to attract advanced technically trained talents due to financial constraints being a Government organization as scientists with specialized technical qualifications are diverting to private or foreign sectors?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is fully focussed towards enhancing self-reliance in military hardware. However, achieving self-reliance in this area is a joint responsibility that has to be met through national efforts by all Government agencies including Ministry of Defence (MoD), Defence Industries (both public and private), Ordnance Factories (OFs) and DRDO, As per provisions in Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) for "MAKE" Category, DRDO is concentrating only on development of strategic, complex and security sensitive systems. DRDO has developed a number of systems/products/technologies worth Rs. 30,000 crore which have already been inducted into Armed Forces, besides a large numbers are in the process of development, production and induction.

(b) DRDO has also been developing need based products for Armed Forces operating at high altitudes, deserts, rain forest, deep sea, etc. to increase their operational efficiency. These products are extremely useful in protecting our soldiers against adverse environmental conditions. Technologies, developed by DRDO, have been transferred to industries for their bulk production to meet the demands of Armed Forces.

(c) There are no financial constraints in DRDO to attract trained talents. Sixth Central Pay Commission has also recommended a number of incentives for scientists which have been

accepted and implemented by the Government. Attrition of scientists has reduced in the last two years in DRDO.

Soldiers in Armed Forces

†2962. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage increase of soldiers in the Army, Navy and Air Force during the last five years;

(b) the annual expenditure incurred on each soldier in each of these sectors respectively; and

(c) the shortage as against the requirement if any, in these sectors and the measures being taken to meet this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Exodus of fighter pilots from IAF

2963. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Air Force is facing shortage of fighter pilots;

(b) whether it is also a fact that increasingly the IAF pilots are resigning from the service despite improved service conditions and emoluments;

(c) if so, the yearly details of number of such applications during the three years; and

(d) the steps being taken to dissuade fighter pilots from resigning?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Sir, the present strength of pilots in Air Force is sufficient to meet its current operational requirements.

(b) to (d) The number of IAF pilots applying for resignation of Commission has reduced over the years. The details of applications during the last three years is as follows:—

Year	Applied for resignation
2007	09
2008	04
2009 (upto December, 2009)	01

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.